

Greeting Speech via Satellite

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Rector

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to appear on this videoconference via the ETS-V satellite between Bangkok and Tokyo. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Organizing Committee and the National Institute of Multimedia Education for giving me this privilege.

Our two countries, Japan and Thailand, have been enjoying friendly relations in many respects for many years. Our two royal families have been very close to each other. My university, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, Ladkrabang or KMIT for short, has also been in cooperation with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and JICA for more than thirty years, to develop human resources in science and technology in Thailand.

The "Partners" project to commemorate International Space Year has provided KMIT with another opportunity to work with MPT and NASDA of Japan. The project will extend our cooperation not only with Japan but also with other nations in Asia and the Pacific region. The International Symposium entitled "The Impact of Higher Education on Social Transformation in Asia and the Pacific", which started today and will be participated in by all of us during the next 2 days, will give an excellent opportunity for all the higher educational experts in this region to share their views and experiences. I am certain that the outcome of this International Symposium will definitely be beneficial to everyone and every nation in Asia and the Pacific region.

Before I end my short speech, may I now take the opportunity to introduce the gentleman sitting next to me here in this studio. His name is Dr. Chaiyong Brahmawong (ดร.ชัยยงค์ พรหมวงศ์) of the Sukhotai Thammathirat Open University or STOU for short. Dr. Chaiyong is a distinguished Thai expert on higher education and he will be making his contribution in the later sessions of today's symposium.

Finally, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would like again to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to MPT, NASDA, NIME and everybody who has made this International Symposium possible. I wish the Organising Committee and every speaker and participant every success.

Thank you and *Sayonara*.